

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2008

Meeting Place: Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Present: Panning Commission Members; Chairman Ray Weber, Thomas Arnold, Rodney Dorski,, Eugene Zager, Jeanne Fehrman, Panning Commissioner Lorelei Fuehrer, Wood County Planning & Zoning; Gary Popelka, Excused Lori Edwards and Mike Speich, Absent Dave Alft

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Ray Weber

Gary Popelka presented a rough draft of the survey results with graphs. Gary noted that the survey results were graphed but the comments are not all compiled, he felt we were 80-90% finished with the survey.

Gary noted there were several negative complaints directed towards the police department but, he felt that the results were mainly due to the recent developments in the police department.

The town had a thirty two percent (32%) response rate. Most of the age population that responded tended to be in the 55-64 age group (some of them already retired). Nearly one-half (1/2) the respondents have lived in Grand Rapids for over 20 years.

Community Services; Survey respondents were generally satisfied with services they are receiving from the town. Fire services were ranked the highest followed by garbage pick-up and then First responder/ambulance services. On the other hand snowplowing seemed to rank the poorest followed by cleanliness of roads.

Housing; Most residents who answered the survey think the overall quality of housing in the town is “about average” (54%); only one percent rated it as “poor”. Thirty-four percent said the overall appearance is “very good.” Part of the reason some rated housing appearance as poor is because of the unkempt nature of some homes with the outside storage of junk, old vehicles or unkempt lawns.

Economics; Our area has been impacted by job layoffs and plant closings. Three-fourths of the survey responses suggested that the Town needs to do something to create more jobs in the Town.

The five most common things respondents would like to see changed in the Town are more recreational areas, cleaner areas, municipal water and sewer, economic development, and lower taxes.

The most common reasons why residents like living in the Town of Grand Rapids are the rural atmosphere and the peace and quiet of the Town.

A majority (60%) thinks there is a strong sense of community pride locally, 14% said there isn't that sense and 26% had no opinion on this topic.

Gary mentioned from the responses he was able to get other relative questions answered.

The Planning Commission has directed everyone to set goals and objectives in each area to be addressed at the next Smart Growth meeting.

Fehrman motion, Arnold second to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Next meeting date April 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.